the law, but it is not *caused* by the law. For whs a law of nature ? It is simply the avowal that certain phenomena always happen in a certain way. And it is a law of Nature that any two masses tend to approach each other with a force which varies inversely as the squares of their distances. But that is not the cause of the apple falling to the ground or the sea following the rising and setting of the moon; it is only the explanation of these things. Each dropping of an apple and each rise or fall of the tide is just one more act going to make up the boundless mass of facts which we gather up and bind together, purely and solely for convenience of thought, under one law, the law of gravitation. What we want to know is the cause of this very widespread fact that bodies do move towards one another in the way stated in the law of gravitation, and stating the law which is only stating that they always do so does not bring us a hair's breadth nearer to the cause. There must be something or other like the influx of our will-power into our muscles, when the surface of the sea moves towards the moon and when the apple moves towards the ground and when two drops of water lying close

together on a perfectly
smooth horizontal sheet of glass are
unable to rest close
together and actually move up to each
other and coalesce
in one big drop instead of two small ones.
There is a pull
somewhere like the pull we give when we
ring the
,door bell. Who or what pulls then ? Does
the moon pull the
sea, the earth the apple, one drop the
other drop ? No^
moon and earth and drop are simply
masses of matter. Th&
mind cannot form the idea of their pulling
without for the
moment thinking of them as alive and
exercising will-power.
But they are not, so far as we know, alive.
They have, so
far as we can judge, no will-power. Who
or what pulls them ?
We are compelled to believe that, apart
from the big or
small masses of matter themselves, there
is in every case
what we call a *force,* that is, a power like
our will-power